



**MINUTES OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

June 6, 2018

Washoe County Senior Center, 1155 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Reno, Nevada 89512  
Game Room

1. **\*Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chair-Dr. Larry Weiss.
2. **\*Roll Call** – Dr. Larry Weiss asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present.

**WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:**

**PRESENT**

Dr. Larry Weiss  
Wayne Alexander  
Sandra Dexter  
Sarah Deardorff (late  
3:28pm)

Donna Clontz  
Barbara Korosa  
Rick Sorensen

**ABSENT (EXCUSED\*)**

Marsy Kupfersmith\*  
Garth Elliott \*  
Margaret Reinhardt\*  
Stan Dowdy\*

**WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT**

Amber Howell  
Sandra Vasquez  
Steve McBride

Leslie Admirand (DA)  
Chris Ciarlo

**ADVISOR PRESENT**

Connie McMullen

**ADVISOR (ABSENT)**

Victoria Edmondson

3. **\*Public Comment** –

No public comment.

4. **\*Member Announcements** –

Donna stated she was at the Senior Coalition meeting and there was a group that has an open door café for people with dementia, she has the flyer for people that are interested. There is also a geriatric lecture series class, she has flyer for those interested.

5. **Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on June 6, 2018.**

Larry Weiss stated he would like to move up item #20, #19, and #15 as the next items in that order. Motion to approve the Agenda with modification of order was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Rick Sorensen. Motion passed unanimously.

20. **\*Report and discussion on Stuff-A-Bus for Seniors 2018**

Chris Ciarlo incorporated item 20 and 19. Chris reported the kick off for the fan drive was this week and it will be promoted through August. The media monitoring service the county pays helps put together the media matrix so that they know what the media is saying of Washoe County. Chris provided a handout for OAM community outreach and media metrics report (see attachment). The numbers on the report are not counting the clicks made by the news coverage. The local coverage value was worth about \$85,000. There was 100% coverage for Older American Month (OAM) and Bocce Ball had a turnout of about 40 seniors. OAM promotional views in Twitter were about 41,000. Chris stated they could have done more on social media and is able to do a better job for it next year. KOLO 8 did live coverage for the drop off event of Stuff-A-Bus.

Rick asked how successful the drop off event was for Stuff-A-Bus; Larry stated it was tough trying to get people to donate. Donna stated they needed to make the connection with the Aces so that people would know that if they donated stuff, they could get a 2 for 1 ticket to a future game. Sandra Dexter stated she works much of the time and she only saw the promotion for the event once. Donna stated they need to work on having more social media to promote the event. Barbara Korosa stated she saw the donations and there were a lot of good items.

#### **19. \*Report and discussion for Older American Month 2018**

Donna stated there will be a debrief toward the end of June and for those who participated she would like feedback. Donna reported they had enough 2018 OAM booklets printed. They did a soft survey at the closing ceremonies and there were about 40 people in attendance. Donna also spoke with Sina Ward and at her event there were over 200 people. Donna suggested to Sina Ward of possibly combining the closing ceremony with her musical event.

Connie reported that the "Meet the Candidate" did not have a great turnout, there were too many May events going on at the same time.

Donna also stated Marsy worked with the libraries and they were happy with all the events and the attendance of the senior population.

Connie stated they were at the legislative hearing with Julia Ratti during the event for closing ceremonies.

#### **15. \*Presentation regarding Reno Housing Authority – Brent Boynton, Reno Housing Authority**

Brent provided a presentation of Reno Housing Authority (see attachment) and stated it is a good time for Washoe County because unemployment is down and the economy is booming, but there is a housing crisis. RHA is part of the solution for the housing crisis; currently they serve about 4,000 families and individuals. The buildings that RHA owns and rents through federal subsidy serve about 750 families and also help those that receive the 2,500 housing vouchers. The vouchers are for use in private properties and landlords, they are also known as Section 8 vouchers where RHA pays a portion of the rent each month. Eligibility is determined by need and people generally qualify when they make less than 30% of the medium income, in Reno it would be less than \$22,050. RHA has people from different spectrums, their biggest category are the elderly and/or people with disabilities. They offer special opportunities for clients and do savings programs to help them reach their financial goals. People that receive RHA assistance go through a vigorous criminal and sex offender check. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program will serve about 165 homes scattered through Washoe County, this is where they get houses and duplexes and fix it up for use. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development considers RHA a top performing agency and uses them as an example to other agencies. Currently there is a waitlist of 3,000 families/people and sometimes the waitlist

is closed. Veterans, people with disabilities and victims of crime do get to be towards the front of the list. Currently the list is closed; the reason is that they do not want to give false hope to people. Also, now they are getting less money as the need is more and because of this they need to get more creative on how to do things. RHA is planning to build the Sutro Street apartments, 1 of the 4 apartments will be dedicated to seniors that are moving from motels. Brent stated RHA wants to be more vocal on affordable housing.

Barbara K. asked about RHA being a part of city government, Brent replied RHA is not governed by the government; they have contracts with the city but are not a division within the city.

Sandra D. asked since landlords are raising rents, do they have to get permission from RHA?

Brent replied that in economic hardships everyone wants to take the vouchers, but in good time they don't want to take them. Donna stated she has visited RHA because she is writing an article for Senior Spectrum; she is looking at how the applications process works and also looking for a builder to give back to the community.

#### **6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on May 2, 2018.**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rick Sorensen and seconded by Wayne Alexander. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. \*Update on Senior Services Division**

Amber stated Human Services agency has a total of 341 employees; a handout of job titles and descriptions was given (see attachment). There is also 'A Guide to Services' brochure (see attachment) that she would like feedback on and also talk about where these can go in the community so people have access to them. Feedback for the brochure was provided and Donna stated the print in the brochure is too small for seniors. Sarah stated maybe a rack card would be better than a brochure. Connie McMullen stated the color blue is hard on the eyes and there are also better fonts that can be used.

#### **8. \*Update on Senior Nutrition Program**

Amber stated they were struggling with transport of meals and how a car has to be managed when delivering food. They have applied for 2 grants and out of the grants they received 4 vehicles. They also received a grant award for \$155,000 for meals that was not anticipated. They are still looking at commercial kitchens and the NAMS campus specifically. The NAMS kitchen is bigger and newer and it may be preferred to invest money in sharing a kitchen instead of building one. Donna suggested maybe contacting the Veteran's office so they would share the new kitchen. Larry asked if there is still a waitlist for home delivered meals. Amber replied there is not a waitlist. Barbara K. asked if the numbers have increased from last year, Amber stated yes, they will actually exceed. Sarah asked what type of vehicles will be purchased with the grant money; Amber stated it will be 2 vehicles equipped for hot and cold food and 2 regular vehicles.

#### **9. \*Update report on Homemaker Services Program**

Amber stated the program is severely lacking and it was the number one request from people asking for services, but they just couldn't find the money. They are now Human Services Agency and all three agencies have become one and since then they have been able to cut on costs. This money will help double the homemaker program. Connie McMullen stated the homemaker medicaid waiver program pays 3.75 per 15 mins of service and she was thinking if the county would entertain a discussion on shifting some of that money to community based services.

Amber stated they are looking at new grants so that people can age in place. They also have a little undesignated funding to start looking at what to do. Sarah asked since the rate of reimbursement is so low, do they have difficulty finding homemakers; Amber stated they do not. Amber stated they have thought of making it in-house program, but it may be too expensive.

**10. \*Update for senior center in Incline Village**

Amber stated Incline opened May 18. The facility was great and there were many ideas from people that attended the grand opening.

**11. \*Update on budget and grant progress for Washoe County Human Services Agency**

Amber stated in regards to the budget and grants that were received she has a spreadsheet of what's available and can provide it in the following meeting. They are also increasing the nursing program, it was only part time.

Larry stated Sanford Geriatric may have someone for the geriatric to do nursing. He also stated it would be a good idea to bring in a podiatrist and certified geriatric.

**12. Discussion and possible recommendations to staff on Senior Services Master Plan (For Possible Action)**

Amber stated they put together a matrix that can be seen electronically (see attachment). The crosswalk highlights goals that overlap on all three Master Plans depending on the selected item. The crosswalk was developed to do a revision of services and what Washoe County as a whole is targeting. Donna stated the handout will help advocate better and clump things together. Since nutrition, clinical, and housing overlap on the 3 plans, it helps focus on goals. Donna stated the board can do three different meetings to talk about each of the three goals.

Motion to proceed with details on nutritional issues at the next regular meeting was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Wayne Alexander. Motion passed unanimously.

**13. \*Report and discussion on Human Services Agency Resource Matrix – Amber Howell**

Amber provided a visual presentation of categorized areas in Human Services Agency. The link to the online site is [washoecounty.us/hsa/resource\\_guide.php](http://washoecounty.us/hsa/resource_guide.php). The site provides a variety of resources; it was put up a month ago and will be updated quarterly.

**14. \*Presentation on overview of Human Services Agency and organization chart – Amber Howell**

Amber provided the organization chart (see attachment) and responsibilities of staff. The Biennial Report shows all statistics for several events; it is the expanded version of the resource brochure. The Biennial Report is updated every other year and will be online.

Steve McBride stated he can do a tour at the Crossroads Program for the board members on June 26 at 9:30am. Sandra V. will send an email to see who can attend the tour.

**16. \*Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee – Donald Abbott**

Donald stated the committee is now a working document with the lawyers. After that it will go to the city council for either June 25<sup>th</sup> or July 9<sup>th</sup>. Donald will let Marsy and Sandra V. know as soon as he knows the exact day.

**17. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding recruiting new board members for District 2 (For Possible Action)**

**a. Application from Scott Benton (Re-submitted)**

**b. Application from Billie Tout**

Larry stated the need of applicants is for District 2 and they should have something showing the need is for District 2. Donna suggested contacting Commissioner Lucey to find applicants for his district. Larry stated he has already contacted him. Donna stated they can look into creating a flyer to post at senior centers for recruiting specifically for District 2.

**18. Update, report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding age friendly communities sponsored by AARP throughout the county and cities (For Possible Action)**

Donna stated she, Larry, Barbara Deavers, Mo Mulvana and Wayne attended the City of Reno city council meeting and they unanimously approved to be Age Friendly; it may take a few months until government passes a resolution that will give a template to present the program. It's not an official committee; it's more like a blue ribbon community run process. Donna will be writing an application for City of Reno and it will be sent out to AARP national office; it may take a couple of months for the turn around. Donna has also had meetings with the County Manager, Commissioner Jung, and assistant to the County Manager. They should be able to see the community players by September. Committees such as the Senior Advisory Board will need to be careful about not having quorums when they meet. Mayor Schieve opened the resolution right away and it passed to be age friendly; if the County and Sparks join in to pass the resolution to be age friendly, it will be unique.

**21. Report, discussion, possible recommendations and updates on the Advisory Board member's Shared Issues and Goals for Housing, Advocacy, Communication & Information, Data Planning, Transportation, Nutrition Programs, Social & Recreation, Senior Law, Volunteering, Financing, and Social & Health Services (For Possible Action)**

Sarah asked about fundraising and grants for Stuff-A-Bus and if they get cash donations; the answer was yes. Sarah also asked about credit card donations; there were no credit card donations. Barbara K. stated the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club donated over \$1,000 to Stuff-A-Bus. There was \$500 donated for Stuff-A-Bus from Nevada Health Link. Sarah also asked about where volunteers are needed, Amber stated she will get the information.

**22. Discussion and possible recommendation for promoting automatic deduction donations from Washoe County employees to Senior Services (For Possible Action) – Larry Weiss**

Larry stated he will look into it.

**23. Agenda items for the next Board meeting (For Possible Action)**

Report for Stuff-A-Bus, statistics  
List of where volunteers are needed  
Report crosswalk nutrition

**24. \*Public comment –**

Barbara Deavers stated that having employees as homemakers could mean that some employees like it and others do not. The state went away from that because it was not cost effective. Barbara D. also stated that homemaker program was not on the website matrix.

**25. Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

Motion to adjourn was made by Barbara Korosa and seconded by Sandra Dexter. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.